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LB 75

SENATOR CUDABACK: Discussion on the committee amendments, Senator Baker, followed by Senator Chambers. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I'm about like Senator Chambers. Now any chance I get to have five minutes up here I'm going to take it, I guess. I want to tell you why I'm against this bill. I'm trying to defend the ethanol industry here and I'm not for big oil. I think the supporters of this bill have got this turned around 180 degrees. Folks, we're going to put ourselves at the mercy of big oil if we pass this bill. We're saying we trust you to provide 85 octane fuel. We're trying to find what percentage of refining capacity is devoted to 85 octane fuel right now. I'll bet it's mighty small. We're going to try and get that figure for you during the debate here, but we're putting ourselves...we're supporting big oil in their monopoly over what...what they can provide us here with 85 octane fuel. Very little of it is produced. It's at a higher cost. There's no pipeline facilities in Nebraska, with exception of Sidney, that devotes tanks to this particular fuel right now, this octane. It's going to cost us more to store it. It's going to put a lot of small retailers out of business and, I tell you, I can't support this bill. I have a financial interest in this. If this bill passes I can see a bunch more money going into our business. It's going to put a couple small people east and west of me out of business. They have two-product stores. Even if they stay in there and produce or sell diesel fuel and 87 octane ethanol, it's going to be at a higher price than what we can sell 87 octane no lead to them. They're going to drive down the road and buy it from our place. We already are selling ethanol. We have the tanks. It's not going to put us at any inconvenience at all. The local co-op there has a tank that sells diesel fuel and no lead; only two products they sell. I don't know what they'll do, whether they'll go to ethanol blend and offer it at a higher price than we're selling no lead up the hill. I don't know. But I can see where it's not going to cause the people who are already selling ethanol much inconvenience, but it could cut the sale of ethanol because it's going to be higher priced than what we're selling 89 ethanol blend now. So I'm defending ethanol industry and certainly am opposed to big oil dictating to us what this 85